

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sample holder for centrifuging samples in centrifugal evaporators that include heating means to assist the evaporation process, wherein the sample holder is formed from a material having high thermal conductivity, and is adapted to receive containers each containing a sample to be evaporated, and the containers are mounted in the holder, so that neither the latter sample containers nor their contents can receive radiant heat directly from the heat source during centrifuging of the samples in the sample holder, but only from the holder, wherein the sample containers are held at a fixed angle to the vertical between 35° and 65° and orientated such that the force exerted on the contents when the centrifugal evaporator rotates them tends to retain the contents in the containers.
2. (Original) A sample holder according to claim 1 which is in the form of a block of high thermal conductivity material.
3. (Previously presented) A sample holder according to claim 1 which is formed from aluminium.
4. (Previously presented) A sample holder according to claim 1 of which the cross-section is selected so that in use no appreciable temperature gradients exist therein during evaporation.
5. (Previously presented) A sample holder according to claim 1 having sample containers mounted directly therein.
6. (Previously presented) A sample holder according to claim 1 in which the sample containers are mounted in one or more intermediate holders which in turn are mounted in recesses in the sample holder.
- 7-18. (Cancelled).
19. (New) A centrifugal evaporator comprising a vacuum chamber and drive means coupled to the vacuum chamber, the vacuum chamber containing heating means and a sample holder according to claim 1, the drive means being operable to rotate the sample holder in the vacuum chamber and the heating means being operable to supply heat to the sample holder.

20. (New) A sample holder for centrifuging samples in centrifugal evaporators that include heating means to assist the evaporation process, wherein the sample holder is formed from a material having high thermal conductivity, and is adapted to receive containers each containing a sample to be evaporated, and the containers are mounted in the holder, so that neither the latter sample containers nor their contents can receive radiant heat directly from the heat source during centrifuging of the samples in the sample holder, but only from the holder, said holder being in combination with at least one other sample holder to form a stack with a spacing member between adjoining holders in good thermal contact therewith, so that the temperature of one holder will tend to be the same as the temperature of the other.
21. (New) A sample holder according to claim 20 which is in the form of a block of high thermal conductivity material.
22. (New) A sample holder according to claim 20 which is formed from aluminium.
23. (New) A sample holder according to claim 20 of which the cross-section is selected so that in use no appreciable temperature gradients exist therein during evaporation.
24. (New) A sample holder according to claim 20 having sample containers mounted directly therein.
25. (New) A sample holder according to claim 20 in which the sample containers are mounted in one or more intermediate holders which in turn are mounted in recesses in the sample holder.
26. (New) A centrifugal evaporator comprising a vacuum chamber and drive means coupled to the vacuum chamber, the vacuum chamber containing heating means and a sample holder according to claim 20, the drive means being operable to rotate the sample holder in the vacuum chamber and the heating means being operable to supply heat to the sample holder.